



What Good Schools Do

It is hard to find a successful school that lacks firm discipline. Numerous studies show that good behavior and academic success go hand in hand. When schools are places of proper conduct, regular attendance, and respect for teachers, students are more likely to learn effectively and get better grades.

Good schools set high standards. They recognize that proper conduct is a habit molded through rules, routines, and examples. Students understand that they are there to learn. To preserve order, the teachers and principal act with authority. These are things we have always known, if not always heeded. A book called Classroom Management published in 1907, says: "There is no explicit formula that will cover each specific case, but one general suggestion may be given: Get Order. Drop everything else, if necessary, until order is secured". That advice is no less true today. We are not talking about repression or mindless authoritarianism. We are talking about nurturing authority, on letting children know you care. We are talking about a place where adults understand that there can be little learning without discipline.

The origins of the word "discipline" lie in the Latin word discipline, which means "teaching" or "learning." In other words, to discipline is to instruct. Good schools are places where teachers and administrators know that discipline is necessary for moral growth. It is an indispensable tool in teaching virtues such as responsibility, hard work, perseverance, and honesty. It is central in learning how to succeed at everyday behavior and how to live a good life.

"There may be no trumpet or loud applause when we make a right decision, just a calm sense of resolution and peace." - Gloria Gaither